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# Technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/194, the present report reviews the progress made from 1 January 2017 to 31 May 2018 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in supporting Member States in the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, as well as the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. The report also highlights key achievements of the Office in delivering technical assistance on the legal and criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism while responding to emerging challenges and evolving needs of Member States. The report concludes with a set of recommendations, including on the need for enhanced support to meet those challenges, for consideration by the General Assembly.

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## Introduction

1. The present report covers major activities undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) from 1 January 2017 to 31 May 2018. The report provides an update of the information contained in document E/CN.15/2018/5.

2. During the reporting period, UNODC assisted Member States and regional organizations in their efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in line with the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Office's support was focused in particular on helping Member States accede to, ratify and implement the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism and develop efficient criminal justice responses that meet human rights and rule of law standards.

3. The Office's mandate regarding counter-terrorism technical assistance was reiterated in General Assembly resolution 72/123, on measures to eliminate international terrorism; 72/180, on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; 72/194, on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism; and 72/196, on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity.

4. More specifically, in its resolution 72/194, the General Assembly requested UNODC to continue to provide assistance to requesting Member States in addressing the threat of returning foreign terrorist fighters and in ensuring that measures are taken to reintegrate children associated with terrorist groups. In the same resolution, the Assembly encouraged the Office to assist Member States in mainstreaming gender perspectives into criminal justice responses to terrorism in order to promote the full protection of women and girls from any form of exploitation or violence perpetrated by terrorists.

5. Furthermore, the Security Council adopted several resolutions related to immediate terrorist threats. Those include resolution 2341 (2017), on terrorist threats against critical infrastructure; resolution 2347 (2017), on the destruction of cultural heritage and the smuggling of cultural property by terrorist groups in situations of armed conflict; resolution 2354 (2017), on countering terrorist narratives; resolution 2368 (2017), on reaffirming the sanctions regime against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh); and resolution 2370 (2017), on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons.

6. In addition, the Council adopted resolution 2396 (2017), focused on terrorist fighters returning and relocating to their countries of origin or nationality, or to third countries. The Council recognized the expertise and technical assistance provided by UNODC to Member States to counter this phenomenon, in particular to facilitate international cooperation on judicial matters related to terrorism, and requested UNODC to continue providing technical support to Member States, inter alia, for the development and implementation of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, including in the context of foreign terrorist fighters.

7. UNODC remained one of the key contributors to the implementation of pillar III of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; 50 per cent of the projects under that pillar were being implemented by the Office. The Office also contributed significantly to the implementation of the foreign terrorist fighter capacity-building plan of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and to the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

8. On 11 April 2018, the Executive Director of UNODC signed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. Signed by the Secretary-General on 23 February 2018, the Compact will further strengthen the collaboration between all entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including UNODC.

9. UNODC is one of the main United Nations entities with the capacity to deploy experts with technical knowledge and practical experience related to all types of

crime, including terrorism. During the reporting period, the Office further strengthened its field presence by recruiting terrorism prevention experts based in Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Thailand and Uzbekistan.

# II. Delivery of technical assistance

10. Since 2003, UNODC has been providing legal and capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States in the ratification, incorporation into legislation and implementation of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and in the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

11. In particular, UNODC assisted countries in the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Central, South and South-East Asia, Central America and South-Eastern Europe. In early 2018, owing to increased funding support from donors, the Office launched additional projects for Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria and Tunisia, as well as for South Africa, the Lake Chad region and a number of Asian countries.

## A. Technical assistance activities

### 1. Ratification and legislative assistance

12. During the reporting period, the Office continued to promote the 19 international legal instruments related to terrorism and contributed to 26 additional ratifications by Member States in receipt of its assistance.

13. Since it entered into force in 2016, an increasing number of States, including Bangladesh, Costa Rica and Madagascar in 2017, have ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

14. Legislative assistance was provided to several Member States, including Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia, Ukraine and Yemen.

15. A national committee in Yemen was established to expedite the finalization of the draft counter-terrorism law. Cameroon amended, inter alia, the military justice code so as to exclude juveniles from the competence of military courts in terrorism cases. With the Office's support, Chad and Mauritania revised their counter-terrorism legislation to bring it in line with international norms and standards. In addition, UNODC assisted Côte d'Ivoire in significantly modifying its counter-terrorism legislation after the attacks in Grand-Bassam. The Council of Ministers of Côte d'Ivoire consequently adopted a law that included legal provisions related to the financing and organization of terrorists. UNODC also advised Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on the legislative implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).

16. UNODC continued to promote the important role of parliamentarians in preventing terrorism, for example, by organizing visits to Madrid, Paris and Vienna for representatives of the Parliament of Egypt.

17. The Office further strengthened its collaboration with parliamentary associations, including by co-organizing regional and subregional meetings hosted by national parliaments with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM). The Executive Director of UNODC addressed the 137th IPU Assembly, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, in October 2017. In addition, UNODC and IPU launched a joint initiative on the role of parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism at a conference for parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa on the challenges posed by violent extremism leading to terrorism and preventive criminal justice responses,

hosted by the Parliament of Egypt in Aswan, Egypt, from 31 January to 2 February 2017.

### 2. Capacity-building to implement counter-terrorism legislation

18. The Office provided capacity-building assistance in several specialized counter-terrorism efforts. Among the top priorities in that regard were the criminal justice aspects of addressing the financing of terrorism, returning and relocating terrorist fighters, improvised explosive devices, terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure and the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist recruitment and incitement.

19. National capacity-building assistance was provided to, inter alia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Yemen. In total, the Office assisted more than 50 Member States and carried out more than 200 national and regional activities through which almost 5,000 criminal justice officials were trained, including 1,213 women.

20. In addition to the existing bilateral technical assistance plans for Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, a new two-year counter-terrorism programme was launched for Iraq.

21. In addition, UNODC further expanded its technical assistance to Sahel countries, for example, by initiating counter-terrorism capacity-building activities in support of Supreme Courts of the Sahel countries and tailored counter-terrorism action plans for Burkina Faso and Mauritania. UNODC further advanced the implementation of the multi-year partnership between Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for strengthening the capacity of criminal justice officials of Nigeria to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases in accordance with the rule of law and human rights. Furthermore, in April 2017, UNODC and Pakistan launched a new programme on action by Pakistan to counter terrorism, with special reference to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Central Asia, UNODC advanced the establishment of a regional network to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

#### (a) Building the capacity of criminal justice practitioners to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism-related cases

22. The Office held a total of 42 national training activities on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related cases for Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as regional events for the Middle East and North Africa, East Africa, South Asia and the Sahel region.

23. UNODC also delivered national workshops for Chad and the Niger on crime-scene management, as well as a workshop for Lebanon on the use of special investigation techniques such as the use of open-source intelligence sources and advanced data analysis tools.

24. In sub-Saharan Africa, UNODC supported Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria in establishing, equipping and training national specialized counter-terrorism units for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases. Study visits for Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali were organized in Niamey to enable those countries to increase their knowledge of the challenges related to the investigation and judicial processing of terrorism cases in the context of the Sahel region, and to draw on the experiences of neighbouring States. Moreover, work on a counter-terrorism investigations manual for Nigeria progressed well, and included the holding of a peer review meeting in Vienna in November 2017. UNODC has placed a mentor within

the specialized counter-terrorism investigation unit of Mali to reinforce its capacity in investigating terrorism cases.

25. UNODC provided mentoring and training to law enforcement units and prosecution entities in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania on improving national coordination in the use of intelligence as evidence, on enhancing basic and specialized investigation and prosecution skills and on improving digital forensic capacity to investigate and prosecute terrorism cases.

26. In Somalia, UNODC made good progress in the construction of the Mogadishu prison and court complex, which will provide high-security court and detention facilities for high-risk cases, including terrorism-related cases.

**(b) Suppressing the financing of terrorism**

27. UNODC worked to further strengthen national capabilities to suppress the financing of terrorism, in line with the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, relevant Security Council resolutions and the Financial Action Task Force's recommendations.

28. UNODC activities included those related to capacity-building in the investigation and prosecution of terrorism financing-related cases, and to disrupting terrorist financial networks in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Senegal, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

29. Asset freezing was the focus of country-level assistance to Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, as well as the main focus of technical assistance to South and South-East Asian countries, where several workshops were held to address countering the financing of terrorism by preventing the financing of weapons of mass destruction. In Côte d'Ivoire, UNODC assisted the Government in efforts related to asset-freezing. As a result, two decrees were adopted to facilitate the coordination of asset-freezing activities and set up institutional structures in that regard.

30. UNODC continued to carry out mock investigations related to countering the financing of terrorism, and in that connection conducted four workshops in Rabat as part of the second phase of the project to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism in Morocco, as well as a workshop in the Niger.

31. The Office held a specialized training session to support States in responding to the use by terrorist groups of digital currencies to finance terrorism in Cairo from 2 to 4 October 2017. Furthermore, the Office continued its collaboration with the Inter-Institutional Committee to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and its Financing of Colombia by supporting the holding of six meetings of the Committee in 2017 and three in 2018.

32. UNODC is well placed to assist Governments in their efforts to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, including through the illicit sale of cultural heritage to finance terrorist operations. During the reporting period, the Executive Director of UNODC briefed the Security Council on the Office's work to combat trafficking in cultural property at two open debates of the Council on the topic "Maintenance of international peace and security: destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict", held on 24 March and 30 November 2017. To address the illicit sale of antiquities by terrorist groups, UNODC worked closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Furthermore, the Office contributed substantively to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2347 (2017) (S/2017/969). Other activities included a workshop for Iraq (Beirut, 21–23 January 2017) and UNODC participation in a European Union high-level meeting on protecting cultural heritage from terrorism and mass atrocities (New York, 21 September 2017).

33. Furthermore, the *World Drug Report 2017*, published by UNODC, contains a chapter dedicated to analysing links between drug trafficking and other forms of crime, including terrorism. It expresses concerns about the growing involvement of terrorist groups in illicit drug sales in some regions, and identifies the need for more research and capacity-building in that regard. In that context, UNODC continued working with Indian Ocean countries, bringing together officials from East Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia to disrupt the charcoal trade and drug trafficking, both linked to the financing of terrorist groups. More specifically, the Office supported States in making their own interdictions in territorial waters and on the high seas and in following up with criminal investigation and prosecution.

34. In addition, UNODC held two expert group meetings, one on identifying good practices in assessing the risks posed by the financing of terrorism and one on interrupting the financing and acquisition of critical parts for improvised explosive devices.

35. UNODC further strengthened the ability of Member States, in particular Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan, to disrupt the financing of terrorist networks. To that end, six progressively more advanced courses on countering the financing of terrorism were developed to support Member States in addressing deficiencies identified during mutual evaluations and in detecting, investigating and disrupting terrorist activities, including attack planning.

**(c) Addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including returning and relocating fighters**

36. The security threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters was further exacerbated in 2017 by the increased number of terrorist fighters returning from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq and/or relocating to their countries of origin or nationality, or to third countries.

37. The Office continued to successfully carry out its initiative on strengthening the legal regime against foreign terrorist fighters in the Middle East and North Africa and South-Eastern Europe, which is aimed at helping States implement Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) and promoting international cooperation in cases related to foreign terrorist fighters.

38. Under the umbrella of the above-mentioned initiative, a total of eight national training activities were held in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen on the use of intelligence in rule-of-law-based, criminal justice sector-led investigations and prosecutions. In addition, in April 2018, UNODC initiated a unique project for cross-regional cooperation among countries of Asia, the Middle East and North Africa in foreign terrorist fighter-related cases.

39. In South-Eastern Europe, three specialized capacity-building activities on normative and administrative challenges related to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters were held in Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Furthermore, in October 2017, UNODC released a manual on investigation of foreign terrorist fighter cases adapted for judicial training institutes in South-Eastern Europe.

40. Recognizing the transboundary nature of the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, the Office held a series of regional workshops for countries of Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe, North Africa and South and South-East Asia. The Office also helped strengthen frontline protection against foreign terrorist fighters in the Sabah region of Malaysia.

41. Furthermore, in collaboration with CTED and PAM, UNODC held a high-level conference for parliamentarians in Rome on 30 and 31 March 2017 on the challenges posed by a preventative criminal justice response to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters.

42. UNODC and INTERPOL continued to implement a project for selected Asian countries on identifying and interdicting terrorist fighters through improved access to the I-24/7 Global Police Communications System of INTERPOL, in the context of which training sessions were delivered in Bangladesh.

43. As a result of the UNODC-INTERPOL-WCO Airport Communication Project, the joint airport interdiction task forces intercepted foreign terrorist fighters travelling to and from conflict zones in the Sahel and the Caribbean. In addition, under the project, a specialized training curriculum for frontline officers at airports on identifying and interdicting suspicious passengers was developed and training in that regard was delivered to task forces in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East.

### (d) Countering the use of information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes

44. The use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes continues to pose a threat to international security, as terrorists use the latest technology, in particular relative to encryption methods, to incite violence, exchange operational information and perpetrate attacks.

45. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to requesting Governments through national and regional workshops on enacting effective criminal justice measures to efficiently counter the threat posed by the use of such technologies for terrorist purposes. In early 2018, the Office launched a unique project to bring together practitioners from the Sahel and North Africa to jointly counter the use of the Internet by terrorist groups.

46. To that end, the Office, in cooperation with the Italian Carabinieri, organized study visits to the forensics laboratory in Velletri, Italy, for Morocco from 20 to 24 March 2017 and for Algeria from 27 to 31 March 2017. In Paris and Lyon from 18 to 22 June 2018, UNODC conducted study visits for officials of Libya on the handling of material evidence and international cooperation in counter-terrorism investigations. Furthermore, specialized equipment for use in investigations carried out on the Internet was delivered to authorities of Libya in May 2018.

47. The Office held two training events in 2017 aimed at strengthening skills in using efficient special investigation techniques to counter terrorist activities on the Internet, one in Amman and one in Cairo. In 2018, UNODC conducted advanced training on open-source Internet investigations involving analysis of criminal intelligence for Iraq in Beirut, and for Jordan in Amman.

48. Recognizing the importance of the digital space as a new source of evidence in the prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases, UNODC held a regional capacity-building activity for the Middle East and North Africa in Rome from 11 to 13 July 2017 and a national work session for Nigeria on 24 October 2017. Furthermore, with CTED and the International Association of Prosecutors, UNODC convened the first expert meeting to develop guidelines on obtaining digital evidence from Internet providers in Vienna on 12 and 13 February 2018.

### (e) Countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism

49. UNODC continued to promote the seven international legal instruments dealing with the criminalization of certain acts by non-State actors involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials, as well as the implementation of relevant obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). To that end, the Office gathered representatives of Member States and other international organizations in Vienna on 20 and 21 March 2018 to promote the international legal framework against nuclear terrorism.

50. Furthermore, UNODC organized a workshop for Iraq on the dual use of chemical materials for terrorism purposes, held in Beirut from 12 to 15 August 2017, which was complemented by related study visits to the European Union Agency for

Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), INTERPOL, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and WCO from 9 to 20 October 2017. A follow-up meeting was conducted in Beirut in 2018.

51. UNODC cooperated with Canada in co-chairing an event held in Vienna on 12 December 2017 commemorating the tenth anniversary of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and in co-organizing a workshop in Bratislava on legal frameworks in nuclear security, under the aegis of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

**(f) Addressing terrorism offences related to civil aviation and maritime transport**

52. UNODC continued to promote the 11 international legal instruments addressing violent acts against civil aviation and maritime navigation.

53. To that end, the Office held a national training event for Egypt in Alexandria from 11 to 13 May 2017 that addressed, inter alia, terrorist attacks targeting tourism and tourism sites. Furthermore, UNODC, together with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), provided assistance to Nigeria in reviewing its civil aviation legislation in Lagos from 17 to 19 October 2017. Furthermore, in April 2018, UNODC launched a project for selected South and South-East Asian countries to strengthen their capacity to implement international maritime-related counter-terrorism conventions and protocols.

54. UNODC, ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) assessed evolving risks and considered the possibility of providing further technical and capacity-building assistance. As a result, UNODC and IMO developed two new regional projects to assist States in countering terrorist risks in the maritime navigation.

**(g) Providing assistance and support to victims of acts of terrorism**

55. In 2017, the General Assembly proclaimed 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. In that connection, UNODC contributes to international efforts to improve the situation and role of victims by strengthening national criminal justice responses to terrorism.

56. To that end, in 2017, the Office finalized a project for countries in South and South-East Asia aimed at supporting and protecting witnesses and victims, and held national workshops on the topic in Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines.

57. As part of the Office's assistance relating to victim-centred frameworks, a workshop was held in Amman from 6 to 8 February 2017 that focused on protecting witnesses in terrorism-related cases.

58. Furthermore, UNODC conducted a work session in Abuja from 9 to 11 May 2017 to support Nigeria and countries in the Lake Chad region in addressing acts of sexual violence by terrorist groups by ensuring that they are prosecuted effectively and that the victims receive support.

**(h) Addressing gender dimensions in the criminal justice response to terrorism**

59. In line with its role in United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, UNODC has developed targeted capacity-building activities relating to gender dimensions in the criminal justice response to terrorism.

60. The Office initiated a project on gender dimensions in sub-Saharan Africa in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). As a result, specialized sessions on gender dimensions were integrated into training workshops for police, prosecutors and the Nigerian Bar Association.

61. Furthermore, some of the projects for South and South-East Asia on criminal justice responses to violent extremism conducive to terrorism include components on

the role of civil society and communities, in particular the women in communities, and families. In Central Asia, UNODC engaged with government officials and civil society to identify the need for gender-focused training. By the end of 2018, UNODC will have developed a new project on gender mainstreaming in counter-terrorism work in the region, to be delivered in 2019.

62. A UNODC publication on gender dimensions in criminal justice responses to terrorism will be published in late 2018.

**(i) Reinforcing human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism**

63. In 2017, the Office launched a new online training course entitled "Human rights in the context of criminal justice responses to terrorism". The course was delivered to judges from the Maghreb region. Workshops, including train-the-trainer courses on human rights-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism, were delivered for Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. A training course for Lebanon, held in Beirut from 13 to 22 September 2017, included the launch of a manual produced by UNODC on special investigation techniques that respect human rights and the rule of law. In March 2017, UNODC also launched a new training manual on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism for Kenya, developed together with national experts.

64. Furthermore, UNODC continued its collaboration with authorities in Nigeria on strengthening human rights in the criminal justice response to terrorism. Activities included a train-the-trainer course (Abuja, 16–20 January 2017), followed by three specialized sessions in which the course's graduates passed on their knowledge to prosecutors and defence lawyers from the country's north-eastern states (Abuja, 21–23 March 2017, 26–28 September 2017 and 14–16 November 2017). The UNODC-trained trainers also delivered sessions on human rights to police legal advisers.

65. As part of its cooperation with regional organizations, UNODC held a joint workshop with OHCHR on human rights and counter-terrorism for the secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel and national liaison officers in Nouakchott in December 2017.

66. In 2018, the Office produced a new publication entitled *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System* and supported the Niger in strengthening its capacity to deal with children allegedly recruited by terrorist groups.

**(j) Strengthening the criminal justice response to violent extremism conducive to terrorism**

67. The prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism has emerged as an important aspect of the fight against terrorism. In that connection, UNODC continued developing its expertise and partnerships to mainstream criminal justice aspects of preventing violent extremism into its capacity-building assistance efforts.

68. During the reporting period, UNODC, in collaboration with CTED and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, developed a new project on managing violent extremist offenders and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons (implementation is to begin in 2018), and launched the publication entitled *Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons* on 16 January 2017, the first-ever United Nations publication on the subject.

69. Furthermore, the Office supported the development of the national strategy of Mali to prevent violent extremism and completed a project on strengthening rule of law-compliant criminal justice responses to violent extremism leading to terrorism for the Middle East and North Africa. To that end, a specialized training session for Egypt and Lebanon on countering violent extremism in prisons was held in Beirut from 14 to 16 March 2017.

70. UNODC has been building capacity of the Kenya Prison Service and the Somali Custodial Corps to detect, prevent and disrupt radicalization in prisons with high numbers of violent extremist prisoners through supporting the security prison apparatus, as well as promoting the reintegration of violent extremist prisoners through vocational training, education and counselling.

71. Research to analyse the criminal justice responses to preventing violent extremism is ongoing in South and South-East Asia.

72. In Central Asia, the Office launched the Central Asian Network for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and supported penitentiary administrations in their management of violent extremist offenders in prisons, in particular in Kyrgyzstan, which was a pilot country.

73. On the margins of the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna in May 2017 and May 2018, respectively, UNODC held two special events to highlight the role of the criminal justice system in preventing violent extremism leading to terrorism, and on challenges in addressing the use of the Internet and social media by terrorist groups for radicalization and recruitment.

**(k) Developing technical assistance tools**

74. In addition to the tools and publications mentioned in the thematic sections above, UNODC also completed the revision of the module on universal legal framework against terrorism, and is soon to release a methodology for terrorism financing risk assessments. The Office also made considerable progress on the UNODC Education for Justice initiative and developed 14 university modules on counter-terrorism and a guide for teachers.

75. UNODC continued maintaining its online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform as an important interactive tool to facilitate training and networking related to capacity-building among practitioners. At the time of drafting of the present report, the Platform had 1,665 users from more than 125 countries. UNODC made considerable progress towards the development and implementation of new and updated online training courses on international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism and on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism, training 54 North African practitioners. In addition, 14 webinars on various topics related to counter-terrorism were delivered, reaching 119 practitioners worldwide.

76. UNODC has been upgrading its legislative database on the UNODC knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) and its new database of competent national authorities for terrorist cases, which forms part of the online directory of competent national authorities hosted on the SHERLOC portal.

**(l) Providing technical assistance in close cooperation with national training institutions**

77. UNODC supported professional counter-terrorism training through continued and new partnerships with national training institutions for the criminal justice sector, thus widening the reach of its capacity-building efforts.

78. Throughout the year, the Office contributed to terrorism-related events held by the University of Zagreb together with the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, the French National School for the Judiciary, the University of Malaga and Qatar University.

79. Train-the-trainer courses remained an efficient way to make capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC highly sustainable. The Office held 10 train-the-trainer courses for Nigeria, 3 for Algeria, 2 for Libya, 1 for the Niger, 1 for Mali, 1 for Morocco and 1 for Tunisia, with varying topical emphases, including human rights and the

investigation of Internet-based terrorist offences. In addition, two subregional workshops were carried out for Sahel countries. In delivering the workshops, UNODC collaborated with the National Judicial Institute of Nigeria, the Higher Institute of the Judiciary of Tunisia, the Higher Judicial Institute of Libya, and the Judicial College of Algeria.

80. The Office assisted judicial and law enforcement training institutes in Mali and the Niger by reviewing their curricula and facilitating the incorporation of terrorism prevention into their syllabuses.

### 3. Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to counter-terrorism

81. In today's globalized world, national authorities need to cooperate in a more comprehensive and timely manner to match terrorists' global reach and mobility.

82. UNODC delivered a vast array of activities aimed at building the capacity of Member States in cross-border investigations and operations and expanded its portfolio of specialized projects designed to respond to terrorist activities that are particularly transnational, such as those of foreign terrorist fighters. This was further supported by the creation of the directory of national central authorities for terrorist cases under the SHERLOC portal. To promote international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in criminal cases related to terrorism, the Office carried out 6 regional workshops, 20 national workshops and 4 online interactive discussions.

83. In line with Security Council resolution 2322 (2016), in which the Council called upon all States to designate central authorities in matters related to terrorism offences, UNODC and CTED resumed the implementation of a joint project on building effective central authorities for terrorism-related cases and co-organized a regional meeting for States of South and South-East Asia, held in Maldives from 7 to 9 November 2017. UNODC also provided training on handling mutual legal assistance and extradition requests to central authority units at the national level in Nigeria.

84. Furthermore, UNODC, CTED and the International Association of Prosecutors launched a project on strengthening the capacity of central authorities and counter-terrorism prosecutors in obtaining digital evidence from private communication service providers.

85. The Office also continued to support the regional judicial platform for the Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal), and held the annual meeting of that platform in April 2017.

86. UNODC helped to establish a new multi-agency task force for the Middle East and North Africa with the aim of strengthening international cooperation in terrorism cases, in particular those relating to foreign terrorist fighters. Two coordination meetings were held in Casablanca, Morocco, in November 2017, and in Amman, in April 2018, respectively.

87. The Office also assisted several Member States to improve inter-agency collaboration on counter-terrorism at the national level, including in Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand.

## B. Partnerships

88. UNODC continued to foster partnerships with other United Nations entities and with subregional, regional and international organizations in order to coordinate and, in some cases, jointly implement technical assistance activities.

### 1. Participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

89. The increasing demand for capacity-building assistance in countering terrorism requires stronger coordination and coherence among United Nations entities in the

identification of technical assistance needs, in the development, planning, delivery and monitoring of programmes and in the assessment of their impact.

90. UNODC works closely with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. UNODC fully supports joint planning, programming and the delivery of technical assistance. The signing of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact will also deepen the collaboration between UNODC and the Office of Counter-Terrorism, WCO, other entities of the United Nations system and INTERPOL.

91. UNODC is an active member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Within the Task Force, the Office chairs the working group on countering the financing of terrorism (with the Office of Counter-Terrorism) and the working group on legal and criminal justice responses to terrorism (with CTED), and is a Vice-Chair of the working group on border management and law enforcement relating to counter-terrorism, which is chaired by CTED. UNODC is a member of all 12 thematic working groups of the Task Force, and representatives of the Office participated in many meetings of those working groups, including meetings on the following topics: national and regional counter-terrorism strategies; promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism; protection of critical infrastructure, including vulnerable targets, Internet and tourism security; supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism; preventing and responding to terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction; preventing violent extremism and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; foreign terrorist fighters; gender-sensitive approaches to preventing and countering terrorism; and communications.

92. UNODC contributed substantially to numerous events and projects of the Task Force, including the reports of the Secretary-General on the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/71/858) and on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/72/840) and quarterly Task Force briefings for Member States, as well as for the new Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism.

93. Furthermore, UNODC continued to contribute to the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative led by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and participated in the development of the I-ACT framework for the Sahel G-5 countries at the request of the Security Council. In that connection, UNODC representatives participated in events held jointly by the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in Dakar and Nouakchott in May 2017, and in a coordination meeting on the implementation of the framework held in October 2017.

### 2. Cooperation with Security Council bodies dealing with counter-terrorism

94. UNODC maintained its fluid cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and CTED on key counter-terrorism projects. In that context, representatives of UNODC participated in the CTC country visits to Argentina, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Paraguay, Senegal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uruguay to monitor the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent related resolutions. Furthermore, representatives of UNODC attended seven CTC meetings, including a briefing on denying safe haven to terrorists and a special meeting and technical consultations on international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in countering terrorism.

95. UNODC and CTED continued to jointly implement several projects, including one on effective counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions while respecting human rights and the rule of law in the Maghreb and one on strengthening the capacity of central authorities and counter-terrorism prosecutors in obtaining digital evidence in matters relating to counter-terrorism.

96. The Office and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, strengthened their collaboration by contributing to each other's events and holding regular consultations. Moreover, UNODC maintained its partnership with the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) through close contact and by contributing to a training course organized by the Committee for the Asia and Pacific region that was held in August 2017.

### 3. Partnerships with international, regional and subregional organizations

97. In the area of terrorism prevention, UNODC has developed and maintained partnerships with 59 international, regional and subregional organizations, including United Nations system entities, in addition to the collaborations mentioned above.[1]

98. UNODC also expanded its cooperation with INTERPOL. Joint activities included the development and delivery of online learning modules to teach justice officials about INTERPOL tools and services. A joint project on enhancing the capacity of national authorities in selected Asian countries to identify and interdict foreign terrorist fighters was also implemented through visits to Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. The joint collaboration on the expansion of the INTERPOL I-24/7 database allowed for the complementary exchange of expertise, including INTERPOL expertise in managing the technical aspects of the database and the Office's contribution of legal components, which led to the effective implementation of the database, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2253 (2015), 2322 (2016) and 2396 (2017).

99. UNODC continued to exchange views with the European Union on counter-terrorism policy and cooperation on technical assistance. The European Union-funded joint projects, which included a project to assist Nigeria in strengthening its criminal justice responses to terrorism, remained at the centre of that important partnership. In addition, UNODC representatives shared their expertise at numerous European Union events, and UNODC invited representatives of the European Union to an expert group meeting on the identification of good practices in assessing the risks of terrorism financing, held in Vienna on 4 and 5 April 2017.

100. UNODC and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have been cooperating consistently on the promotion of the international legal instruments against nuclear terrorism, in particular the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. UNODC participated in an IAEA nuclear security information exchange meeting, held in Vienna in April 2017, and an IAEA

[1] UNODC has collaborated with the following entities: African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Council of Europe and its Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism, Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurojust, European Counter-Terrorism Centre, European Court of Human Rights, European Parliament, European Union and its European External Action Service, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, Financial Action Task Force, Global Centre on Cooperative Security, Global Counterterrorism Forum, Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Criminal Police Organization, International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, International Maritime Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Organization for Migration, Inter-Parliamentary Union, League of Arab States, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Radicalization Awareness Network, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, World Bank, World Customs Organization and World Trade Organization.

regional workshop to promote the universalization of the Amendment to the Nuclear Material Convention, held in Panama City in November 2017 and in Tokyo in May 2018. UNODC expertise was also provided at a UNODC global workshop on the universalization of the International Convention and the Nuclear Material Convention and its Amendment, held in Vienna on 20 and 21 March 2018.

101. Furthermore, in 2018, at the request of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Office assisted in drafting a protocol to the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism concluded in 1999.

### 4. Other cooperation with Member States

102. UNODC worked to foster closer collaboration with national authorities of Member States in receipt of its assistance in order to ensure that technical assistance was being tailored to national and regional counter-terrorism priorities. To that end, UNODC engaged in close consultations with permanent missions of Member States to the United Nations and national counterparts.

103. The Office worked closely with national authorities in Indonesia, Iraq, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, the Philippines and other countries in strengthening national and regional counter-terrorism strategies. Furthermore, UNODC contributed to technical assistance plans for Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Malaysia and Mauritania, and continued to participate actively in the development and implementation of national and regional strategies within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. With support from UNODC, Iraq drafted a national strategy on the dual use of chemical materials for terrorism purposes.

104. Throughout 2017, UNODC and CTED worked with authorities in Nigeria to develop approaches for the effective screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with Boko Haram, with a particular focus on criminal justice aspects. In December 2017, an action plan on criminal justice responses to terrorism with a focus on north-eastern Nigeria was endorsed by Nigerian authorities. In addition, work was initiated in coordination with the International Organization for Migration to develop standard operating procedures for proper screening of persons associated with Boko Haram detained in north-eastern Nigeria, in accordance with international standards.

105. Furthermore, the Office held round-table discussions in Dhaka in July with the Government of Bangladesh, with the participation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Regional Coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme, to coordinate the delivery of technical assistance in countering terrorism on the ground. The meeting resulted in the development of a coherent framework for joint programme and assistance delivery across the United Nations.

106. The Office also enjoyed invaluable funding support from major donors. Since 2003, pledges and contributions have been made by the following Member States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. Pledges and contributions have also been made by the following entities: CTED, European Union, IMO, Indian Ocean Commission, International Organization of la Francophonie, INTERPOL, OSCE, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the University of Sussex, Verification Research, Training and Information Centre and Folke Bernadotte Academy.

107. Several States also supported UNODC through the participation of their national experts in its technical assistance activities.

### C. Monitoring technical assistance activities and assessing their impact

108. Ensuring the effectiveness, relevance, sustainability and impact of its technical assistance activities ranks among the Office's top priorities. A total of 92.5 per cent of national officials under the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism reported that the technical assistance they received had met their goals and was relevant to their needs and priorities.

109. UNODC continued to implement the recommendations emanating from the 2015 independent midterm in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme.

110. Furthermore, the Internal Audit Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services conducted an audit of the management of the Global Programme covering the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 August 2017. The audit team undertook missions to Cairo and Vienna from September to December 2017. Its report contains 10 recommendations for UNODC, including recommendations to enhance the protection of sensitive information about activities on the ground, to establish mechanisms to record feedback from stakeholders, to consult available national voluntary reviews when designing new projects and to consolidate technical assistance requests. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations has already been made, with active measures already in place to improve in-house procedures for data collection to enhance the monitoring of feedback from stakeholders, donors and beneficiaries. Furthermore, the involvement of the Office's security team will assist in the development of new security-related arrangements for the preservation of sensitive information pertaining to technical assistance activities.

111. UNODC also finished implementing the key recommendations contained in the independent evaluation of the joint partnership project of Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and CTED to assist Nigeria in strengthening its criminal justice responses to terrorism. According to the evaluation, the project responded to the needs identified by the Government of Nigeria, helped to sensitize key agencies to the need to coordinate and cooperate in terrorism-related cases and raised awareness of the necessity for organizational change among criminal justice agencies. The Office initiated an independent follow-up evaluation for the second phase of the project, which is to be finalized in 2018. It also issued several recommendations for further enhancing the effectiveness, quality and efficiency of its technical assistance to Nigeria related to counter-terrorism.

## III. Priorities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the field of preventing and combating terrorism

112. UNODC will continue to support Member States' efforts to strengthen their legal regimes and criminal justice systems against terrorism, in full compliance with the rule of law and human rights. The Office offers expertise on immediate terrorist threats such as returning and relocating terrorist fighters, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, children recruited and exploited by violent extremist and terrorist groups, the increasing use of modern information and communications technologies by terrorists, terrorists acting alone or in small cells, the proliferation of improvised explosive devices, terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure, and the criminal justice aspects of preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

113. In particular, the Office will continue to promote the ratification and implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism, assist Member States in reviewing their national legislation, build the capacity of criminal justice officials, and promote regional and international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

114. Promoting the ratification of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism that have a low level of ratification or those that have not yet entered into force, including the Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation, the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and the Protocol to amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, will remain a priority.

115. UNODC will continue to implement long-term technical assistance programmes and projects tailored to the context of specific countries and regions, in close consultation with other United Nations entities, in particular the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED.

116. To respond to Member States' requests, UNODC will strengthen its capacity-building programmes to support the efforts of Governments to efficiently address immediate terrorist threats on topics such as returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, the use of improvised explosive devices by terrorist groups, terrorists acting alone or in small cells, the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

117. Human rights will continue to be an integral element of all counter-terrorism project proposals. UNODC will also focus on mainstreaming gender dimensions into criminal justice responses to terrorism through the development of a technical assistance tool, jointly with OHCHR, that will address how criminalization, investigation, prosecution and detention in terrorism cases affect men and women differently, as well as the protection of women's rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism, among other aspects. In addition, UNODC mainstreams gender dimensions on a bilateral and subregional basis in its technical assistance workshops.

118. UNODC has been expanding its online directory of competent national authorities to include a database of competent authorities with a view to facilitating cooperation for the purposes of preventing, investigating and prosecuting terrorist acts and strengthening international cooperation against terrorism, especially with regard to cases involving foreign terrorist fighters. The launch of the new database supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 2322 (2016).

119. UNODC also intends to implement technical assistance programmes on the treatment of children recruited and exploited by violent extremist and terrorist groups, and on the management of violent extremist prisoners and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons.

120. The Office will also reinforce efforts to develop technical assistance tools. The online training platform and legislative database will be expanded to meet new technical and thematic requirements.

121. Implementation of recommendations emanating from the 2017 internal audit and the 2015 independent in-depth evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism will be prioritized, in particular those on ensuring the impact and sustainability of its technical assistance, and further streamlining communication and coordination with relevant field offices.

122. The Office will continue to ensure cost efficiency and transparency with respect to donor Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies, including by improving its results-based management approach and the quality of its concept notes and reports.

123. Finally, UNODC intends to further strengthen internal coordination among its services, as well as coordination with other entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, in order to maximize the impact of technical support, avoid duplication and ensure synergies and internal coherence within the United Nations system.

# IV. Recommendations

124. The prevention and prosecution of acts of terrorism and related crimes is increasingly important to Member States and is treated by many as a high priority. The quickly evolving and transnational nature of the threat posed by global terrorism requires a coordinated and regional response. One of the most important ways in which the United Nations supports Member States in their efforts to prevent and counter terrorism through the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is through the Office's deployment of experts with highly specific and up-to-date knowledge of criminal justice approaches to preventing and countering the various elements of acts of terrorism. Continued voluntary support is essential for those efforts.

125. The accession to and ratification and implementation of the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism is a vital first step that Member States can take towards addressing the threat posed by terrorism, and all Member States are encouraged to do so. Other important steps are the strengthening of legislative frameworks and criminal justice and law enforcement capacity, as well as the enhancement of international judicial cooperation through relevant safeguards and oversight mechanisms, building upon technical assistance provided by UNODC, in particular in the areas of interdiction, investigation and ensuring there is no safe haven for perpetrators of terrorist acts.